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DEPARTMENT OF STATE		IS/FPC/CDR <u>TRB</u> Date: <u>12/5/96</u>
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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MANILA FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 6/18/01 (MCCALL, SHERROD) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, UR, US, CH
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON SECRETARY HAIG'S CHINA
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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: MOSCOW'S INITIAL COVERAGE OF THE RESULTS OF SECRETARY HAIG'S VISIT TO CHINA EMPHASIZED THE CLOSENESS OF VIEWS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, CHINA'S WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT U.S. POLICIES TO BUILD UP ARMS AND OPPOSE THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF ARMS SALES AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINESE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS. THERE HAS NOT BEEN AN AUTHORITATIVE SOVIET COMMENT ON THE VISIT AS YET, BUT ONE LEADING SOVIET COMMENTATOR TOLD US HE VIEWED THE PURPOSE OF THE WEAPONS SALES AS AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE THE PRC TO TAKE OFFENSIVE ACTION AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION AT SOME POINT. END SUMMARY.

3. AFTER A VIRTUAL BLACKOUT IN THE SOVIET MEDIA ON THE HAIG TRIP TO CHINA SINCE THE JUNE 10 ITEM REPORTED REFTEL, TASS JUNE 17 RELEASED A REVIEW OF THE TRIP'S RESULTS BASED ON COMMENTS BY THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA IN BEIJING. THE ITEM WAS CARRIED ON SOVIET TELEVISION AND IN THE ARMY NEWSPAPER KRASNAYA ZVEZDA AND SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA ON JUNE 18. PERHAPS UNDERLINING ITS LESS THAN AUTHORITATIVE STATUS, HOWEVER, PRAVDA CARRIED ONLY THE NON-SUBSTANTIVE OPENING PORTION OF THE RELEASE.

4. TASS EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VISIT FOR FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA. NOTING THE SECRETARY'S COMMENT ON THE CLOSENESS OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, IT CONCLUDES BEIJING NOW "TAKES WASHINGTON'S SIDE" AND "HAS NOW GONE EVEN
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FURTHER IN ITS CONSPIRACY WITH U.S. IMPERIALISM." CHINA IS SAID TO SUPPORT THE U.S. ARMS BUILDUP WHILE THE U.S. ENCOURAGES BEIJING'S "HEGEMONISTIC AND AGGRESSIVE ASPIRATIONS" IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. TASS ALSO REPORTS THE "COMPLETE COINCIDENCE" OF VIEWS ON AFGHANISTAN AND KAMPUCHEA AND THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL FURTHER CONCERT THEIR "ANTI-SOVIET POLICIES."

5. THE ITEM NOTES THE U.S. WILL TREAT CHINA AS A "FRIENDLY COUNTRY," THE "EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES" THUS CREATED FOR THE CHINESE TO BUY UP-TO-DATE U.S. TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING MODERN WEAPONS, THE CHINESE INTEREST IN THESE WEAPONS, AND THE PLANNED

AUGUST VISIT BY THE CHINESE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE U.S. IT DOES NOT, HOWEVER, COMMENT ON THESE INCREASED MILITARY TIES, OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT IT GIVES "GROUNDS FOR LEGITIMATE CONCERN" TO THE ASIAN COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. TASS INTERPRETS THE OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS ON TAIWAN AS BEIJING HAVING "AGAIN CONSENTED TO THE CREATION OF A 'TWO CHINAS SITUATION' BY THE AMERICAN SIDE."

6. CLEARLY, THIS TASS REVIEW IS ONLY THE FIRST SOVIET REACTION, AND IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN AUTHORITATIVE SOVIET COMMENT. INDICATING THAT MORE COMMENT WILL BE FORTHCOMING, IZVESTIA COMMENTATOR VIKENTY MATVEYEV ACTED QUITE EXERCISED OVER THE HAIG VISIT IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF. MATVEYEV SAID THE RATIONALE FOR THE AMERICAN PROVISION OF "OFFENSIVE WEAPONS" TO BEIJING COULD ONLY BE TO ENCOURAGE THE PRC, PERHAPS IN A DECADE'S TIME, TO ACT OFFENSIVELY AGAINST THE U.S.S.R. HE ADMITTED THAT NOTHING LESS THAN A MASSIVE INFUSION OF WEAPONS

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MANILA FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

TO CHINA WOULD MAKE THE PRC A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE
U.S.S.R., BUT HE SAID THAT EVEN THE PROVISION OF
SOME U.S. OFFENSIVE WEAPONS WOULD ENCOURAGE THE
CHINESE TO UNDERTAKE NEW AGGRESSION AGAINST VIETNAM.
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HE ALSO INTERPRETED THE U.S. DECISION ON THIS ISSUE
TO BE "YET ANOTHER SIGN" THAT THE U.S. HAS ADDPTED
A POLICY OF "UNMITIGATED HOSTILITY" TOWARD THE
SOVIET UNION. MATLOCK

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